



**Testimony  
Betsy Gara  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Before the Environment Committee  
March 7, 2022**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports **HB-5291, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDING FOR BIKEWAYS, GREENWAYS AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS.**

HB-5291 will benefit municipalities and their residents by increasing funding for the Recreational Trails and Greenways Grants program, which assists municipalities and non-profit organizations in creating and maintaining beautiful areas for outdoor recreation.

In 2021, the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) received 65 grant applications, but funding was only available to award grants for 20 projects.

HB-5291 will help address this shortfall and ensure that Connecticut's residents have the opportunity to enjoy biking, hiking, and walking in scenic areas throughout the state.

**COST urges support for HB-5291.**